

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CARTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE DANGER OF IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. You know, Mr. Speaker, it is sad that the chains of bondage are often too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. History has shown humanity to be susceptible to malignant dangers that approach inaudibly and nestle among us until the day of sudden calamity comes and finds us empty-handed, broken-hearted, and without excuse. The ominous intersection of jihadist terrorism and nuclear proliferation has been inextricably and relentlessly rolling toward America and the free world for decades. Mr. Speaker, this menace is now nearly upon us, and it represents the gravest short-term threat to the peace and security of the human family in the world today.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the jihadist ideology of its leaders, represents a particularly significant danger to America and her allies. It was 31 years ago that the Iranian Revolution occurred, and that nation's relentless march to jihad was born. Shortly thereafter, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and a few other Islamic revolutionaries led

a student revolt that shocked and defied the world when they kidnapped and held 53 American hostages for 444 days. Then during the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime again shocked the entire world with its brazen barbarity when reports surfaced that Iran was clearing the way for its tanks by using a force they referred to as the Basij. This was a phalanx formation of child soldiers and old men that they would recruit from the streets with promises of glorious rewards for their self-sacrifice. This was signified by plastic keys that were given to the children to wear around their necks in order for them to unlock the gates of heaven as they marched to their own bloody deaths.

Between 1980 and 1988, Mr. Speaker, Iran's radical leaders sacrificed an estimated 100,000 innocent Iranian children in this gruesome process. Row upon row would be marched into battle, falling under the rapid fire of the enemy's machine guns and clearing minefields with their own bodies to make way for Iranian tanks. This, Mr. Speaker, is the ideology that gives rise to Iran's now-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Those radicalized, brainwashed, Basij forces have now come of age and are among Mr. Ahmadinejad's strongest supporters. And today the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has now led his Nation to become the world's largest sponsor of terrorism.

President Ahmadinejad was speaking to the whole world when he said, "And you for your part, if you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, recognize the Iranian nation's greatness and bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will later force you to surrender and bow down."

How can we possibly trust such a man to have his finger on a button that could launch nuclear missiles aimed at our families? And how would we negotiate with a nuclear Iran when their jihadist ideology considers Armageddon a good thing and believes that it is God's will for them to annihilate America and Israel? Despite claiming to desire peace, Ahmadinejad has consistently undermined every advancement toward peace in the Middle East by supporting terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and Shiite insurgents, and militias in Iraq responsible for killing and maiming U.S. and coalition forces and countless innocent citizens.

What possesses us, Mr. Speaker, to believe that they would not do the very same with nuclear weapons? Mr. Speaker, Iran has recently begun to enrich uranium to beyond 20 percent, which is four times the amount necessary for peaceful domestic energy production. It also means that they are 70 percent of the way to weapons-grade uranium capable of fueling nuclear warheads. Iran's leaders still claim that they're just enriching uranium for solely peaceful intentions, Mr. Speak-

er. But the IAEA put it this way: "We are being asked to believe that Iran is building uranium enrichment capacity to make fuel for reactors that do not exist."

Over the last several years, Iran has shifted its stories with each well-documented discovery about its enrichment efforts by the IAEA. First it claimed it had no centrifuge program whatsoever. Then it claimed it had only done a limited amount of centrifuge testing. And now we know, in fact, that Iran possesses not a few but thousands of centrifuges. Mr. Speaker, if the Iranian enrichment program is only for producing nuclear power plants for fuel, why have they continuously deceived the world and hidden it for three decades?

With its languishing economy and literally centuries worth of natural gas reserves, Iran's claim that it seeks nuclear capability solely for peaceful purpose is ridiculous beyond my ability to express, Mr. Speaker. Iran has disregarded three previous rounds of security council sanctions and has repeatedly misled the IAEA.

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They have built underground enrichment facilities at that Natanz and the newly discovered underground facility at Qom, and they've continued to test the long-range ballistic missiles that could be used to deliver a nuclear payload.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2005, I stood on this floor and called for Iran to be referred to the United Nations Security Council. At that time Iran had fewer than 150 centrifuges. Today the Iranian program now includes over 8,000 centrifuges. And only a total of maybe 3,000, Mr. Speaker, is the commonly accepted figure for a nuclear enrichment program that can be used as a platform for a full scale industrial program capable of churning out enough enriched uranium for dozens of nuclear war heads.

The IAEA reports that Iran has already manufactured enough uranium hexafluoride to ultimately manufacture at least 20 nuclear warheads.

It's also been reported that Iran has experimented with polonium, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, polonium is a radioactive isotope with only one known purpose on this entire Earth, and that is to trigger a nuclear explosion.

Iran has a multiple medium-range ballistic missile program. Based on the success of their medium range Shahab III, Iran is now attempting to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Shahab IV, the Shahab V and the Shahab VI, and the Simorgh two-stage rocket.

The regime only last year successfully launched its first satellite. Mr. Speaker, this is the same technology necessary to integrate a nuclear warhead and an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this brings me to something even more ominous. There